MTNL has introduced its mobile phone service based on GSM technology in Delhi on 7.2.2001. The services in Mumbai will be launched on March 2, 2001. Initially the service will be for one lakh subscribers each for Delhi and Mumbai.

(c) MTNL has requested for licence in other service areas. The time for the introduction of service can be fixed only after MTNL is able to obtain the Licence. BSNL is also planning to start the service in other Metropolitan cities during 2001-02.

Irregularities and Corruption in Postal Department in Madhubani Bihar

† 38. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Member of Parliament has demanded an inquiry from Vigilance Department against a Postal Inspector working in the Madhubani District of Bihar alleging irregularities and corruption in appointment; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard and the steps taken after the said enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In pursuance of that inquiries were held in the matter and certain procedural irregularities were established against the Inspector relating to appointment of ED Agents. Action under relevant rules has been initiated against the said functionary.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.